

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00050 01 OF 02 161729Z

12

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3185

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 00050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT: STRENGTH OF LIBERATION FORCES
AND THE NEW MIXED MILITARY FORCE

REF: LUANDA 0048 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE ARMY SOURCES GIVE THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS
FOR THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION GROUP FORCES: FNLA-21,000; MPLA-NETO -
10,000; UNITA-8,700; MPLA-CHIPENDA - 2,000; FLEC-1,200. DUE TO
DIFFERENCES IN LOCATION, ARMS, NUMBERS IN TRAINING AND THE EFFECT-
IVENESS OF CADRE, HOWEVER, THE ABOVE NUMBERS DO NOT DIRECTLY RE-
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00050 01 OF 02 161729Z

FLECT THE MILITARY POWER BALANCE BETWEEN THE GROUPS. THE INDEPENDENCE

AGREEMENT SIGNED ON JANUARY 15 DOES NOT LIMIT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS EACH LIBERATION GROUP MAY MAINTAIN IN ANGOLA, ALTHOUGH EACH MUST CONTRIBUTE 8,000 TO A MIXED MILITARY FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL LIBERATION GROUPS ARE NOW PUTTING GREAT EMPHASIS ON THEIR MILITARY FORCES AND ARE WORKING TO INCREASE THEIR TROOP STRENGTH. RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY HAVE GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OF THE TROOPS STRENGTHS AND DISPOSITIONS OF THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS:

A. FNLA. A TOTAL OF 21,000 MEN. 8,000 MEN ARE IN FNLA'S TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLDS IN THE DEMBOS AREA NORTH, WEST AND SOUTH OF CARMONA, 450 ARE ON THE CUANGO RIVER FRONTIER WITH ZAIRE IN NORTH - CENTRAL ANGOLA, 700 ARE INSIDE ANGOLA IN THE AREA NORTH OF THE MALANGE-HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO HIGHWAY, 250 ARE INSIDE ANGOLA IN THE REGION NORTH OF LUSO, 600 ARE IN LUANDA, 9,000 ARE IN GENERAL RESERVE OR TRAINING AT KINKUZU IN ZAIRE, 1,000 ARE IN ZAIRE ALONG THE NORTH-CENTRAL BORDER WITH ANGOLA AND 1,000 ARE STATIONED IN SOUTHERN ZAIRE, NEAR ZAIRE'S WESTERN BORDER WITH ANGOLA.

B. MPLA-NETO. BETWEEN 10,000 AND 12,000 MEN, OF WHICH 1,500 ARE IN CABINDA, 300 IN THE CONGO, 200 IN LUANDA AND 2,500 INSIDE EASTERN ANGOLA, INCLUDING THE CAZOMBO SALIENT AND THE REGION EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF LUSO, 1,500 ARE IN TRAINING NORTHEAST OF LUANDA BETWEEN QUIBAXE AND BULA-ATUMBA AND 4,000 ARE IN TRAINING IN ZAMBIA AND IN EASTERN ANGOLA.

C. UNITA. A TOTAL OF 8,700 MEN, OF WHICH 2,700 ARE TRAINED AND OF THESE ALL BUT THE LUANDA GARRISON OF 200 ARE IN THE EASTERN OR SOUTHERN PART OF ANGOLA. ABOUT 6,000 ARE IN TRAINING AT UNITA'S PRINCIPAL BASE SOUTHWEST OF LUSO.

D. MPLA-CHIPENDA. A TOTAL OF 2,000 MEN, ALL IN ZAMBIA OR EASTERN ANGOLA. NO MEN IN TRAINING. SOME OF THESE TROOPS ARE DEFECTING TO NETO'S FORCES.

E. FLEC. 1,200 MEN, OF WHICH 1,000 ARE BEING TRAINED AND EQUIPPED BY MOBUTU INSIDE ZAIRE AND 200 ARE IN GABON OR THE CONGO.

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PAGE 03 LUANDA 00050 01 OF 02 161729Z

3. THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IS DISCHARGING ALL ANGOLANS FROM SERVICE, WHITE AND BLACK, EXCEPT FOR THOSE CAREER PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REMAIN. THE GOAL IS TO HAVE AN ALL WHITE PORTUGUESE ARMY BY THE END OF MARCH. THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 40,000 SERVICEMEN IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO THE INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT THIS NUMBER MUST BE REDUCED TO 24,000 BY APRIL 30, 1975.

4. THE ALL-BLACK FORCES FORMERLY UNDER PORTUGUESE ARMY CONTROL -

GRUPOS ESPECIAIS (GE), TROPAS ESPECIAIS (TE) AND THE FOUR ALL-BLACK ARMY COMPANIES - HAVE BEEN DEMOBILIZED. THE FLECHAS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DISBANDMENT. THE FATE OF THE OPVDCA (RURAL MILITIA - 90 PERCENT BLACK) WILL BE DECIDED BY THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE FORMER KATANGAN GENDARMES ARE STILL IN THEIR CAMPS. PORTUGUESE ARMY INTELLIGENCE DOES NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE DISBANDED.

5. ONE SOURCE COMMENTED ON THE DIFFICULTIES THAT UNITA FACES IN TRYING TO RAISE A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FORCE. UNLIKE THE OTHERD TWO MAIN GROUPS, UNITA HAD ONLY A SMALL ARMED FORCE (600-800 MEN) ON APRIL 25. THESE MEN HAD MUCH LESS COMBAT EXPERIENCE THAN FNLA OR MPLA TROOPS AND THUS PROVIDE UNITA WITH A MUCH SMALLER NUCLEUS OF TRAINED CADRE FROM WHICH TO STAFF AN ARMY THAN EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO GROUPS. ALSO, UNITA IS WITHOUT ANY FOREIGN SUPPLIERS AND SHORT ON ARMS FOR NEW RECRUITS. HE SAID IT APPEARED THAT WEALTHY PORTUGUESE BUSINESSMEN AND DIAMANG, THE ANGOLAN SUBSIDIARY OF THE DE BEERS SYNDICATE, ARE GIVING UNITA LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO BUY ARMS ON THE WORLD MARKET. OUR SOURCES TELL US THERE IS NO CHANCE UNITA WILL REACH A LEVEL OF 50,000 TROOPS (LUANDA 0032).

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 00050 02 OF 02 170848Z

12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0050

6. IN DISCUSSING THE TACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TROOP LOCATIONS, OUR SOURCES AGREED THAT FNLA, WITH ITS PREPONDERANT MASS OF TROOPS POISED ABOVE LUANDA, WAS IN THE MOST FAVORABLE SHORT TERM POSITION. UNTIL MPLA COULD RAISE A TRAINED NUMBER OF TROOPS COMPARABLE TO THE 8,000 FNLA ELEMENTS IN THE DEMBOS, NETO MUST CONSIDER HIMSELF IN A MILITARILY WEAK POSITION. THE MPLA FORCES IN TRAINING ARE MOSTLY IN THE EXTREME EAST OF ANGOLA AND EVEN WHEN TRAINED COULD NOT QUICKLY BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY AROUND LUANDA. FNLA HAS SHORTER, MORE SECURE SUPPLY ROUTES AND A FIRM ALLY IN MOBUTU. NETO WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON EITHER SEA-BORNE SUPPLIES OR A LENGTHY, EXPOSED OVERLAND SUPPLY ROUTE FROM ZAMBIA. AS TIME PASSES, HOWEVER AND MPLA HAS MORE TRAINED TROOPS AT ITS DISPOSAL, THE POWER BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO FORCES INSIDE ANGOLA WILL BEGIN TO EQUALIZE. UNITA, WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY MILITARILY WEAKER THAN
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PAGE 02 LUANDA 00050 02 OF 02 170848Z

THE OTHER TWO, IS IN A MORE SECURE POSITION IN THE SOUTH AND IS NOT LIKELY TO BE MILITARILY PRESSED BY THE TWO NORTHERN GROUPS. IT CAN DEPEND ON MOCAMEDES AS A SECURE SUPPLY POINT AND ON WHITE SUPPORT FOR THE MONEY IT NEEDS FOR ARMS.

7. MOST LOCAL SOURCES ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT CIVIL WAR CAN BE AVOIDED IN THE SHORT TERM, BUT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CONCERN ABOUT LONG RANGE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED PEACE.

8. THE INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A MIXED MILITARY FORCE UNDER THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER, WITH EACH LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE A TOTAL OF 8,000 MEN AND THE PORTUGUESE ARMY TO MATCH THIS WITH 24,000 MEN. PROBABLY DUE TO THE LOW NUMBER OF TRAINED TROOPS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO MPLA AND UNITA THIS MIXED FORCE IS TO BE BUILT UP GRADUALLY, WITH EACH LIBERATION GROUP CONTRIBUTING 500 MEN PER MONTH IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL AND MAY AND 1,500 PER MONTH IN JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER. THE PORTUGUESE CONTRIBUTION WILL BE 1,500 PER MONTH IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS AND 4,500 PER MONTH DURING THE SECOND PERIOD. THUS, THE AGREEMENT WILL MAINTAIN EQUALITY AMONG THE LIBERATION ARMIES WITHIN THE MIXED MILITARY FORCE, BUT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL FORCES THAT THE LIBERATION GROUPS MAY MAINTAIN ABOVE THIS 8,000 LEVEL. IN EFFECT, THEY CAN DO AS THEY WANT, INCLUDING STATIONING THESE EXCESS TROOPS INSIDE ANGOLA. THE AGREEMENT IS ALSO SILENT ON THE NATURE OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE LIBERATION TROOPS WITHIN THE MIXED FORCE. PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR A JOINT

STAFF, BUT NOTHING IS SAID OF THE EXTENT OF INTEGRATION BELOW
THIS LEVEL. WE WILL REPORT DETAILS AS THEY BECOME KNOWN.
KILLORAN

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